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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS
Government shutdown averted
p3

HOW TO
Explore the fall foliage
p24

ANIMALS
Horses can read our feelings
p10

October 13, 2023 • Vol. 4, Issue 182 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

TAYLOR'S YEAR

New film based on Taylor Swift's 2023 concert tour opens in theaters worldwide p20

DID YOU KNOW?

- The movie will run from October 13 through November 5.
- It broke the record for single-day advance-ticket sales.
- It will be released in more than 100 countries.

The six people who filed the lawsuit

FAST FACT
The European Court of Human Rights was created in 1959 and delivered its first decision in 1960.

Climate report released

The International Energy Agency released a report on September 26 showing that nations could hit their climate change targets. Countries have invested a record $1.8 trillion in clean energy sources like solar, wind, and electric vehicles this year. The report offered hope that those efforts could help slow global warming.

Young people bring climate lawsuit

On September 27, a European court began hearing a climate lawsuit filed by six young people from Portugal against the governments of 32 countries. It is the world's largest climate lawsuit ever.

What happened?

Six plaintiffs (people who initiate a legal action) brought the lawsuit in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), an international court based in Strasbourg, France. They are arguing that the nations have inadequate policies for addressing climate change. The countries named in the lawsuit are the member nations of the European Union (EU, a group of 27 countries, mostly in Europe) plus Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Who filed the suit and why?

The plaintiffs are between the ages of 11 and 24. They decided to file the lawsuit after two wildfires in Portugal's Leiria region in 2017 destroyed nearly 50,000 acres of forest and caused the deaths of more than 60 people. Catarina Mota, a plaintiff, said the wildfires closed schools and smoke filled the air, interrupting their lives and education. The young people argue that the fires are a result of climate change, which has also caused frequent, intense heat waves that make it hard for them to go outside, study, exercise, and breathe, which affects their mental health. They claim the governments are violating their basic human rights, including the right to life, by not adequately addressing these issues. "These European governments are failing to protect us," said plaintiff André dos Santos Oliveira, age 15. "Our ability to do anything, to live our lives, is becoming restricted."

The European Court of Human Rights building

What do they hope to accomplish?

The plaintiffs are not seeking money. They are hoping to bring about new government policies that would significantly cut emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2, a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change). CO_2 is released when fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, are burned to power factories, generate electricity, or operate vehicles. The plaintiffs want the nations to invest more in clean energy sources such as solar and wind power. In response, the countries have argued that the plaintiffs haven't proven they have suffered directly from climate change. They also said there is no evidence to show that climate change presents an immediate risk to human life or health and that climate issues fall outside the court's authority.

What other climate cases have been brought by young people?

In August, a judge in Montana decided in favor of a group of 16 plaintiffs who were 5 to 22 years old when they filed their climate lawsuit. The court said Montana's climate policies violated the plaintiffs' right to a healthy environment guaranteed by the state's constitution (highest law). Another group of 21 young people filed a lawsuit against the US government in 2015, claiming it had failed to protect them against climate change. That case is awaiting trial. A similar trial against Hawaii is scheduled to begin in 2024. Overall, the number of climate-related lawsuits has more than doubled since 2015 and now totals more than 2,000 worldwide.

What will happen next?

The ECHR is expected to issue a verdict (decision) in 2024. A ruling in favor of the plaintiffs would force all 32 governments to significantly increase their efforts to prevent climate change. The countries are legally required to follow the court's decision or they could face major fines. If the plaintiffs lose the case, however, it could weaken the chances of similar lawsuits elsewhere.

Thousands flee into Armenia

More than 100,000 people fled the country of Azerbaijan, in western Asia, and traveled to the neighboring nation of Armenia. They were residents of a disputed region called Nagorno-Karabakh, which was seized by Azerbaijan's army on September 20 in a violent military offensive.

Though Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, it has functioned as an independent state since 1994. Its leaders and people were mostly Armenian. Azerbaijan has wanted to take the region back from them for many years and stepped up efforts to do so in recent months. Still, the attack was a surprise to residents, who fled by car and on foot.

Azerbaijan said people who left could return to Nagorno-Karabakh. But former residents who escaped feared they would be harmed by Azerbaijani troops if they went back. The large number of people entering Armenia poses a humanitarian crisis. As officials from the UN (a group of 193 nations working together) arrived to help, world leaders called for peace in the region.

People leaving Azerbaijan

DID YOU KNOW?
The longest government shutdown in US history started in December 2018 and lasted for 35 days.

The US Capitol building, where Congress meets

US government averts shutdown

Lawmakers in the US Congress (branch of government that makes laws) narrowly avoided a government shutdown on September 30, reaching a deal three hours before the deadline.

The potential shutdown was due to a disagreement over the government's annual budget, which is controlled by Congress. The budget expires each year on September 30. If Congress fails to pass a new one by that date, government agencies must stop all non-essential work. A new budget must pass by a majority vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate (the two parts of Congress) before being signed by the President.

A shutdown would have left 2 million members of the military and 1.5 million federal employees without pay and hundreds of thousands of workers temporarily out of a job. Millions of Americans would not have received food assistance and other benefits.

In recent weeks, arguments over the budget broke out in the House and Senate. Republicans and Democrats disagreed with one another and within their parties on what to include. The divisions threatened to make passing the budget impossible. To avoid that, Kevin McCarthy, the Speaker (top leader) of the House and a Republican, worked with Democrats to draft a compromise.

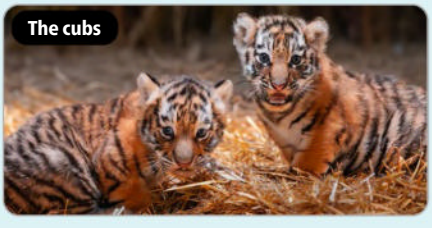
In the final hours, Congress voted for a bill that keeps the government open for 45 days, and President Joe Biden signed it. Some Republicans were unhappy that McCarthy compromised with Democrats. On October 3, they called for him to be removed as speaker. After a vote of 216–210, he lost the position. A new speaker will be chosen.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

GROWING GIANT VEGETABLES

There was heavy competition at an annual giant vegetable contest in the UK. Winners included a 1,403-pound pumpkin, a 29.5-pound cucumber, and a 1.4-foot-long fava bean. The eye-popping produce set eight world records.

The winning pumpkin



The cubs

TWIN TIGER CUBS

The Toledo Zoo in Ohio shared what it called "paw-sitively exciting news" as it announced the birth of twin Siberian tigers. There are fewer than 600 of the endangered species in the wild, and twins are rare. The cubs, both female, are doing well. "It's really special for us," zookeepers said.

A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP

An exhibit created by the Japanese company Pokémon and the Van Gogh Museum in the Netherlands aims to introduce young people to the work of the famous Dutch artist. The three-month show features six paintings of Pokémon cleverly done in the style of Vincent van Gogh, who was inspired by Japanese art.

One of the paintings

ON THE COVER: THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL, INC.; GETTY IMAGES (4); ON THIS PAGE: ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; AP; COREY WYCKOFF/THE TOLEDO ZOO; VINCENT VAN GOGH FOUNDATION; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AP

DID YOU KNOW?
When Dianne Feinstein was elected to the Senate in 1992, there were two female senators. Today there are 25.

Dianne Feinstein in 2019

A school named for her

In 2006, the Dianne Feinstein Elementary School opened in the senator's hometown of San Francisco, California. With state-of-the-art facilities, the school serves about 500 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. "I'm so thrilled by this," Feinstein said when the school opened. "I'm like a little kid."

Senator Dianne Feinstein is remembered

Dianne Feinstein, the longest-serving female senator in US history and the oldest member of the Senate, died on September 29 at age 90. A Democrat from California, she was a trailblazer whose political career lasted more than 40 years.

Who was Dianne Feinstein?

Feinstein was born in San Francisco in 1933. After graduating from Stanford University, she began working for the San Francisco district attorney (top government lawyer in criminal cases). She won her first election in 1969, taking a seat on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. She became the first female mayor of San Francisco in 1978 and served until 1988, then won a special election to the US Senate (one half of Congress) in 1992. She went on to be elected five more times to six-year terms. Most recently, she was reelected in 2018, a term she was fulfilling at the time of her death.

What were the hallmarks of her career?

Feinstein served during six Presidencies, from George H.W. Bush to Joe Biden. She was known for looking for common ground between Democrats and Republicans and advocated for issues that were important to California, including gun safety and environmental protection. She was the first woman to chair the Senate Intelligence Committee and the first woman to preside over a President's inaugural ceremony, for Barack Obama in 2009.

How did people react?

Many people hailed Feinstein for breaking gender barriers in politics that paved the way for other women. Leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives (the other half of Congress) honored her with a moment of silence. "We lost a giant in the Senate," said Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. "California and our entire nation are better for her dogged advocacy and diligent service," said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

What will happen next?

California Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Laphonza Butler, the president of a nonprofit that supports female political candidates, to fill Feinstein's Senate seat. Butler was sworn into the Senate on October 3 and will serve the remainder of Feinstein's term, which ends in January 2025. When *The Week Junior* went to press, Feinstein's office had not released plans for a funeral service.

WORD OF THE WEEK

GOVERNMENT

At the heart of the word "government" is a Latin word *gubernare* ("to rule"), which came from the Greek *kubernan* ("to steer"). The idea is that a government steers a country or nation in the same way that a captain steers a ship across the ocean,

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 2, 1967

First Black justice sworn in to top court

On October 2, 1967, Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993) was sworn in as a justice of the US Supreme Court, becoming the first Black person to sit on the nation's highest court. Marshall, a lawyer and a great-grandson of a slave, had previously argued 32 cases in front of the Supreme Court and

Thurgood Marshall

The Senate floor

Senate votes for dress code

On September 27, the US Senate established business attire as its official dress code. The decision came days after Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said lawmakers could choose what they wanted to wear. After an outcry from senators who said casual clothing is disrespectful, the Senate voted unanimously (all in agreement) for a resolution that defined business attire as a coat, tie, and slacks for men. Women's business attire was not specified.

Circus performers

Circus returns without animals

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus began a new national tour on September 29 with no animals in its show. Instead, audiences will be entertained by about 75 human artists from 18 countries doing acrobatics, juggling, comedy, and more. The 146-year-old circus closed in 2017 due to low ticket sales and accusations by animal rights groups that it had mistreated its animals.

Building lit up in Hogwarts colors

On September 27, the lights of the Empire State Building in New York City were red, green, yellow, and blue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the release of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which has sold more than 120 million copies. The colors represented the four houses of Hogwarts, the school in the book: Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw.

The Empire State Building

AP: NASA; UNITED STATES SENATE; GETTY IMAGES (2); @EMPIRESTATEBLDG/INSTAGRAM; ON LEFT PAGE: CELESTE SLOMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; AP; GETTY IMAGES (2)

WOW! During his space mission, Frank Rubio orbited the Earth approximately 5,936 times.

Frank Rubio, center, upon returning to Earth

Astronaut breaks US record in space

American astronaut Frank Rubio returned to Earth on September 27 after spending 371 consecutive days in outer space, the longest single continuous spaceflight by a US astronaut. Rubio and two Russian cosmonauts, Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin, landed in a remote part of Kazakhstan. There, recovery crews were on hand to carry them away because they were not able to walk after spending so much time in space in low gravity. Rubio arrived in Houston, Texas, the next day.

Rubio, along with Prokopyev and Petelin, took off on a flight for the International Space Station (ISS, a laboratory that orbits 254 miles above the Earth's surface) on September 21, 2022. It was Rubio's first spaceflight. The three were originally scheduled to spend 180 days on the ISS. However, the spacecraft that was to bring them home was damaged by space debris, and a replacement had to be sent up from Earth.

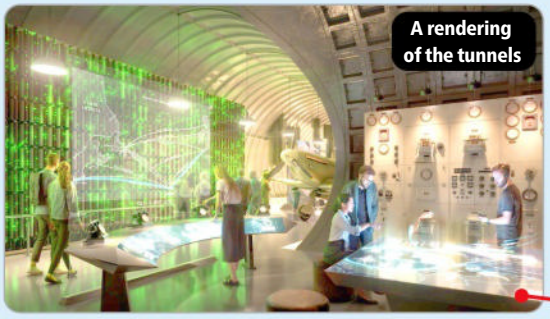
While on board the ISS, Rubio completed three spacewalks lasting a total of more than 21 hours. He worked on science experiments and said his favorite one involved growing tomatoes. NASA (the US space agency) has said that learning how to grow food in space will be important for future missions.

Rubio, who grew up in Miami, Florida, and is 47 years old, spent several years flying helicopters for the US military. He later became a medical doctor and joined NASA as an astronaut in 2017. NASA currently has no plans to send another astronaut into space for at least a year.

Now that Rubio has returned to Earth, he will provide a case study for researchers on how extended time in space affects the human body. "Of course it's amazing to be in space, but more than anything, you feel very proud to do things that will help all of humanity," Rubio said during his journey.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Tortoise escapes from Pennsylvania vet clinic for third time" *UPI*


A rendering of the tunnels

London, UK
Secret tunnels will open to public

A mile-long network of historic tunnels is being turned into a new tourist attraction. The Kingsway Exchange Tunnels, more than 130 feet below a train station in London, were built in the 1940s to shelter people from bombs during World War II and served as a hidden base for secret agents. A $268 million upgrade will add giant screens and interactive technology to explore the tunnels' history. They are expected to open in 2027.

Olive oil is hard to find.

Spain
Dry weather causes olive oil shortage

Spain is experiencing a shortage of olive oil after a long period of dry weather that has damaged olive crops. Spain is the world's largest producer of olives and produces about half of the world's supply of olive oil. Because of the shortage, the price of extra virgin olive oil has doubled in the country since the start of 2023. This has led people to steal both olives and bottles of olive oil.

Whirling dervishes

Konya, Turkey
Music gathering is held

For the 20th year, people from around the world flocked to the Mystic Music Festival for a week of spiritual music and performances in the city of Konya. The event is held to remember a 13th-century spiritual leader and poet named Jalaluddin Rumi, who is buried in Konya. The festival featured a display of 250 whirling dervishes—spinning dancers in long flowing garments.

Kharkiv, Ukraine
Underground school planned

The city of Kharkiv announced plans to build Ukraine's first fully underground school. Since Russia started a war there in February 2022, more than 3,000 schools have been damaged and dozens have relocated to temporary spaces like train stations. The underground school is intended to be a permanent safe space for students to learn.

A lesson in a train station

The Maldives
A new president

Mohamed Muizzu was announced as the new leader of the island nation of Maldives on September 30 following a presidential election. Muizzu won 54% of the vote against the current president, Ibrahim Solih. Muizzu said his goals are to strengthen the Maldives' relations with China, which could mean a shift from the country's traditional partner, India. Muizzu will be officially sworn in as president on November 17.

Mohamed Muizzu

GETTY IMAGES (8); DBOX; WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Around the world

Barbie is a hit in Russia.

Russia
Barbie screens unofficially

Barbie isn't officially showing in Russian movie theaters, but people are still seeing it. Many Hollywood film studios stopped screening their films in Russia after its army invaded Ukraine, and the Russian government doesn't want US films shown either. It is thought that copies of *Barbie* are coming from other Russian-speaking countries.

Cui Chenxi on her board

Hangzhou, China
Teenage skateboarder wins gold

Cui Chenxi, a 13-year-old skateboarder, has become China's youngest Asian Games gold medalist after winning the women's street event. The Asian Games is a multi-sport event held every four years for athletes across Asia. Chenxi performed multiple "ollies," a move that involves pulling the skateboard up into the air with only the feet. "This is just the beginning," said Chenxi, who aspires to compete at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Families celebrate.

Vietnam
Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated

The annual Mid-Autumn Festival took place on September 29. An important day for Asian communities around the world, it is called Tet Trung Thu or Tet Thieu Nhi ("children's celebration") in Vietnam. Amid that country's festival, which featured colorful lanterns, music and dance performances, and mooncake pastries, President Võ Văn Thuong asked children to follow their dreams and congratulated them for helping people in need.

A new train

Jakarta, Indonesia
High-speed train line launches

A new high-speed railway, Whoosh, has begun operating between Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, and the city of Bandung. Trains reach speeds of up to 217 miles per hour. The 86-mile line cost $7.3 billion and will cut travel times by more than two hours. "The name is inspired by the sound of a rushing high-speed train," said Joko Widodo, president of Indonesia.

Australia
Early voting begins

Early voting has begun on a proposed change to Australia's constitution (law) to recognize the nation's Indigenous peoples (people who were the first to inhabit a place) and to give them a greater say in government. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the measure, called a Voice to Parliament, would bring "national unity." Opponents said it would divide Australians along racial lines. The vote is scheduled for October 14.

A family heads out to vote.

Should cats be kept indoors at night?

Some people say a cat curfew would keep birds and other animals safe.

What you need to know

- **There are 46.5 million pet cats in the US. More than 60% of them are kept entirely indoors by their owners.**
- **Studies show that pet cats that go outside kill about 800 million birds each year in the US.**
- **Experts say that about a third of birds native to the US are in decline or endangered because of wild cats and pet cats that go outside.**
- **In Australia and Iceland, some local laws require pet cats to stay indoors at all times or at certain hours.**

FURRY FRIENDS
Cats and humans first bonded about 12,000 years ago, when cats hunted rats and mice that harmed crops.

GETTY IMAGES

Indoor cats are cute and cuddly, but if they go outdoors, they're likely to hunt and kill wildlife, like birds and mice. Hunting is a basic survival instinct in cats, even if they're well fed and spend most of their time curled up on their owner's lap or computer keyboard. Cats are known to hunt more at night, especially just after sunset and before sunrise. This has led many people to say cats should be kept indoors overnight to help protect wildlife. But others say it's unfair to force cats to stay inside, away from their natural environment. The indoor life can make them restless and stressed. What do you think? Should cats be kept indoors at night?

Yes—cats kill too many birds

Many species of birds in the US are struggling to survive, including common ones like sparrows. Everyone must play their part in protecting wildlife, and keeping pet cats indoors is a simple way to do this. Some animal experts say it's good for cats too. Studies have shown that traffic accidents involving cats are more likely to happen at night, so keeping pets indoors overnight is for their own safety. If indoor cats get bored, there are plenty of ways to keep them happy. Owners can play with them, give them toys or climbing towers, or just snuggle up with them on the sofa.

No—cats should be free to roam

Cats are hunters, especially at dawn and dusk, and it's only fair to let them behave like they naturally would. There are other ways to prevent them from catching birds, like making them wear collars with bells or bright colors, which alerts their prey so the birds have time to fly away. According to a study by a bird protection group in the UK, cats with a bell catch 41% fewer birds. And besides, it's wild cats—not pet cats—that catch most birds and animals. The main reason for wildlife decline is habitat loss, which is mostly caused by people clearing land for farms and homes. It's unfair to punish cats for that.

YES Three reasons why cats should be kept indoors at night

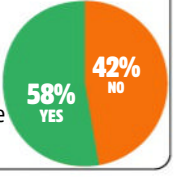
1. **Everyone must work to protect birds and other wildlife that cats like to catch.**
2. **Keeping cats indoors at night also keeps cats safe because they're more likely to be hit by a car when it's dark.**
3. **There are plenty of ways to keep indoor cats entertained, like playing with toys, giving them places to climb, or snuggling.**

NO Three reasons why cats should not be kept indoors at night

1. **It's a natural instinct for cats to hunt, and it's not fair to stop them from doing this.**
2. **There are other ways to protect birds from cats, like putting a bell on the cat's collar that warns the birds.**
3. **The main reason bird populations are dropping is habitat loss, which has nothing to do with cats.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if homework should be eliminated. Most of you voted against extra work after school: 58% said yes, while 42% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think cats should be kept indoors at night or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Back in the groove

Hip-hop and R&B icon Sean Combs makes his return to the spotlight.

At the age of 53, Sean Combs is a pop culture legend. Known as Puff Daddy, P. Diddy, and Diddy, he began as an R&B musician and helped pioneer the hip-hop genre. Now he is expanding his legacy by giving back to the music community and releasing new music.

Growing up in New York City, Combs remembers watching MTV and dreaming of becoming a musician like the ones he saw on TV. He attended Howard University in Washington, DC, before leaving to work at a record label. In 1993, he launched his own label, Bad Boy Records, which continues to release albums by award-winning artists. He went on to win three Grammy awards (top music award), starting in 1997 with awards for the album *No Way Out* and the song "I'll Be Missing You."

MTV's VMA trophy

This year is the 50th anniversary of hip-hop, and Combs has been performing at events to celebrate it. He also announced that Bad Boy Records would return the music rights to several of its artists and songwriters, allowing them to profit more from their work. Combs said he did this because he wants to help make the world more fair.

In September, Combs released his first solo studio album in 17 years. *The Love Album: Off the Grid* features a variety of R&B artists, which Combs called a great combination of talent.

For his major influence on the music industry, Combs received the Global Icon Award at MTV's Video Music Awards on September 12. In his acceptance speech, he spoke about achieving his childhood goals. "You just got to keep dreaming," he said.

Sean "Diddy" Combs

DID YOU KNOW?
Sean Combs has had 11 number one hit songs on the Billboard music charts.

Making film history

On September 6, award-winning filmmaker Ava DuVernay became the first Black female director from the US to have a film compete at the Venice Film Festival (VFF), which has been taking place since 1932. Her film *Origin*, about renowned author Isabel Wilkerson, received a nine-minute standing ovation. DuVernay told reporters that many people advised her not to apply to VFF because she would not be selected, considering the small number of Black filmmakers who have in the past. "This year, it happened," said DuVernay.

Ava DuVernay

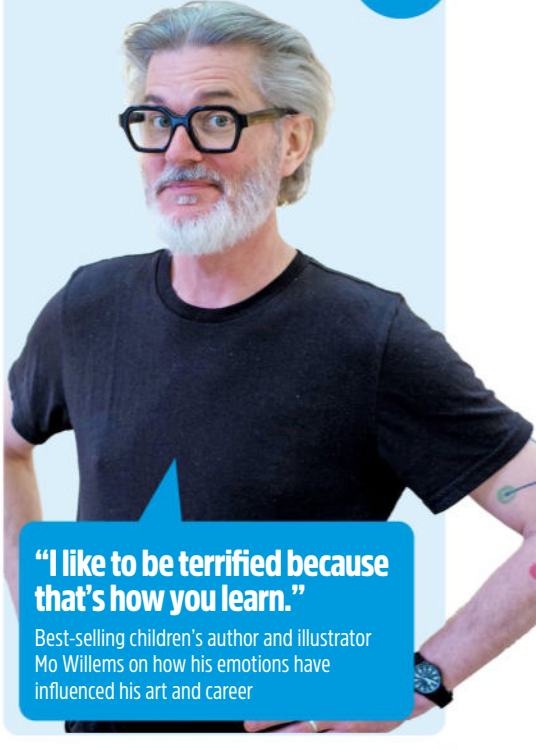
GETTY IMAGES

Caitlin Clark

A top sports honor

The University of Iowa basketball star Caitlin Clark was named the 2023 Sullivan Award winner at a ceremony in New York City on September 19. The award, which is given out by the Amateur Athletic Union, recognizes a college or Olympic athlete for exceptional leadership and sportsmanship qualities. Clark, age 21, has already had a remarkable basketball career. This year, she broke the record for the most points scored in an NCAA basketball tournament, with 191. Clark called the award an honor, saying, "I am incredibly humbled."

OVERHEARD



"I like to be terrified because that's how you learn."

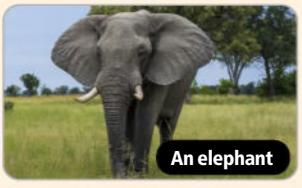
Best-selling children's author and illustrator Mo Willems on how his emotions have influenced his art and career

QUITE A SIGHT
Horses have bigger eyes than any other animal that lives on land.

Horses might like to see people smile.

Animal emotions

Many animals have their own ways of showing emotions. Elephants feel grief when a loved one dies. They "bury" the body, placing leaves and grass on it, and visit the location for years. Rats have been shown to empathize, meaning they are able to understand one another's feelings to an extent.



An elephant

Horses know when a human is happy

From *Black Beauty* to *The Chronicles of Narnia*, many films and stories have shown the close bond that can develop between a human and a horse. However, no one knows how much horses actually understand about their human companions. Recently, researchers have been trying to determine whether horses understand human emotions, and they have found that horses can tell when someone feels happy or sad.

Humans and horses often develop bonds.

To conduct the experiment, the researchers tried a technique that is often used to study how much babies understand about the world around them. It involves setting up a scenario that does not make sense. The researchers brought 28 horses into a room, one by one. They showed each horse a picture of a happy human and a sad human. At the same time, they played a recording of a happy or sad voice.

When the picture and voice didn't match—for example, if the voice was sad but the picture showed a happy person—the horse seemed puzzled and looked for a longer time, as if it knew something didn't make sense.

"You could imagine that they have a particular box in their mind labeled 'human sadness' containing the characteristics of both a human sad face and a human sad voice—and that when we are sad, they expect what we say to match how we look," said researcher Océane Liehrmann of the University of Turku, in Finland.

The researchers also believe that horses prefer to be around happy people. The animals spent more time looking at the happy person's picture and seemed more excited when they heard a joyful voice.

It is possible that the horses might have associated happy human expressions with positive memories from their past. Another theory is that seeing a happy person could actually make a horse feel happier—a process known as emotional contagion. "We don't know whether horses themselves understand what it is to be sad," said Liehrmann. However, "it is possible that they learn that it means something for a human," she said.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Fly Geyser, Nevada

Fly Geyser is a geographical wonder that was accidentally created by humans. In the 20th century, workers dug wells in Black Rock Desert. The water they found was boiling hot, though, so they abandoned them. The wells became geysers (holes in the ground that shoot out hot water and steam). Over time, the water left behind mineral deposits, which grew upward into rainbow-colored mounds. Many sheep, deer, rabbits, big cats, and foxes live in Black Rock Desert. During the colder seasons, wild horses and burros can often be seen on low mountain slopes.

A bighorn sheep

DID YOU KNOW? Each sea turtle species can be identified by a unique pattern of scales on its head and shell.

A leatherback sea turtle

Dog helps to save sea turtles

A dog's nose might just be the next big thing in sea turtle conservation. Nearly all species of sea turtles are endangered, and a new study shows that "conservation sniffer" dogs can help to protect their vulnerable nests.

Five species of sea turtles nest on beaches in the southeastern US. From May through October, thousands of turtle eggs may be laid under the sand, where they are at risk from predators and human activities. Conservationists try to monitor their locations in order to accurately count and protect them, but the eggs can be difficult to find in a beach full of sand.

Researchers trained a terrier named Dory to detect the eggs' scent. During two nesting seasons, Dory was able to sniff out 560 sea turtle nests from three different species, while human volunteers found 256 nests. Dory was also less likely than humans to dig in the wrong places. Although Dory is only one dog, the study showed that canine detectives like her could make conservation efforts more efficient, potentially saving more turtles.

Animal of the week: Atlantic puffin

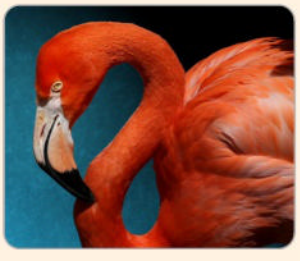
The number of Atlantic puffin chicks growing up off the coast of Maine has increased for the second year in a row. In past years, a lack of small fish had made it difficult for these "clowns of the sea" to feed their young.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 30 years
- **HABITAT:** The North Atlantic Ocean
- **DIET:** Fish, crustaceans, and mollusks
- **SIZE:** About 10 inches long and one pound in weight
- **FUN FACT:** A puffin's beak is gray during the winter but turns bright orange in spring.

Good week / Bad week

Koalas

Australia has banned logging (cutting down trees) in an important koala habitat, protecting 21,000 acres of forest in New South Wales. The area, which is home to 106 "koala hubs," will become part of a new national park.



Mexican flamingos

Hurricane Idalia, in August, was so strong that it seems to have blown some of Mexico's native flamingos to the US. The birds have been seen as far north as Wisconsin. Experts say they are stressed from the winds and being in a new environment.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5)

Ask an expert

"Why are some fish blind when they should have good eyesight to see in the dark?" Max, 8, Massachusetts

Gabriela Vega
Marine biologist/senior aquarist, Dallas World Aquarium

Fish living in dark environments have developed many different ways to "see." Blind fish use other senses, such as extra taste cells or modified fins, to find food and avoid predators. One important sensory organ is the lateral line, whose cells have tiny hairs that can sense motion and pressure.

Mexican tetras

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Dallas World Aquarium at dwazoo.com.

An exciting game of

After a tournament this fall, the sport will crown a world champion.

Cricket is one of the most watched sports in the world. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, held every four years, starts this month in India.

An early game

What is cricket?

Cricket is a bat and ball sport that began in England and has been played since at least 1611 and possibly centuries earlier. In the game, two teams of 11 players compete on an oval field to score the most runs. As with baseball, the teams take turns batting, with one team trying to score runs and the other trying to get the batters out. The batter stands in front of a stick structure called a wicket. The opposing pitcher bowls the ball toward the wicket, and the batter tries to hit it. Innings can end for various reasons, such as when 10 batters get dismissed (out). The number of innings depends on the kind of cricket being played.

At the first men's Cup in 1975

History of the Cricket World Cup

There are three types of cricket that are played internationally, and One Day Internationals is the kind played at the Cricket World Cup. International cricket matches have been held since the mid-1800s, but it wasn't until 1971 that the International Cricket Council (ICC), the global governing body for the sport, first proposed a Cricket World Cup. A women's World Cup was held in 1973, and the first men's World Cup was in 1975, both in England. There have been 12 World Cups, and Australia has won it five times.

GETTY IMAGES

MORE TO COME
The next ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will kick off in September 2025 in India. Australia won the last cup in 2022.

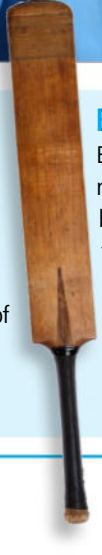
WOW!
More than 2.6 billion people tuned in worldwide to watch the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2019.

Play cricket!

In a cricket match, two wickets are placed facing each other on the field. Here are more details about the equipment cricket players use.

Wicket

A wicket is made up of three upright stumps with two pieces of wood, called bails, lying between the tops of them. Bowlers can get batters out by hitting the wicket with the ball and



Bat

Early cricket bats were made from modified tree branches. Today, the bats have two parts. One, at the bottom, is the handle. The wider wooden part with a flat surface above it is called a blade.

bats and balls

DID YOU KNOW?
A new professional cricket league, Major League Cricket, started playing in the US in 2023 with six teams.

England won its first men's Cricket World Cup title in 2019.

Ball

Cricket balls, usually red or white, are smaller yet heavier than baseballs. They are made of cork, with a leather covering and a seam running in a straight line around the ball.

Pads

All cricket players can wear helmets at any time. But only batters and wicket-keepers, who stand behind the batter's wicket, are allowed to wear other protective gear, such as gloves and leg pads.

Australia at bat

How the World Cup works

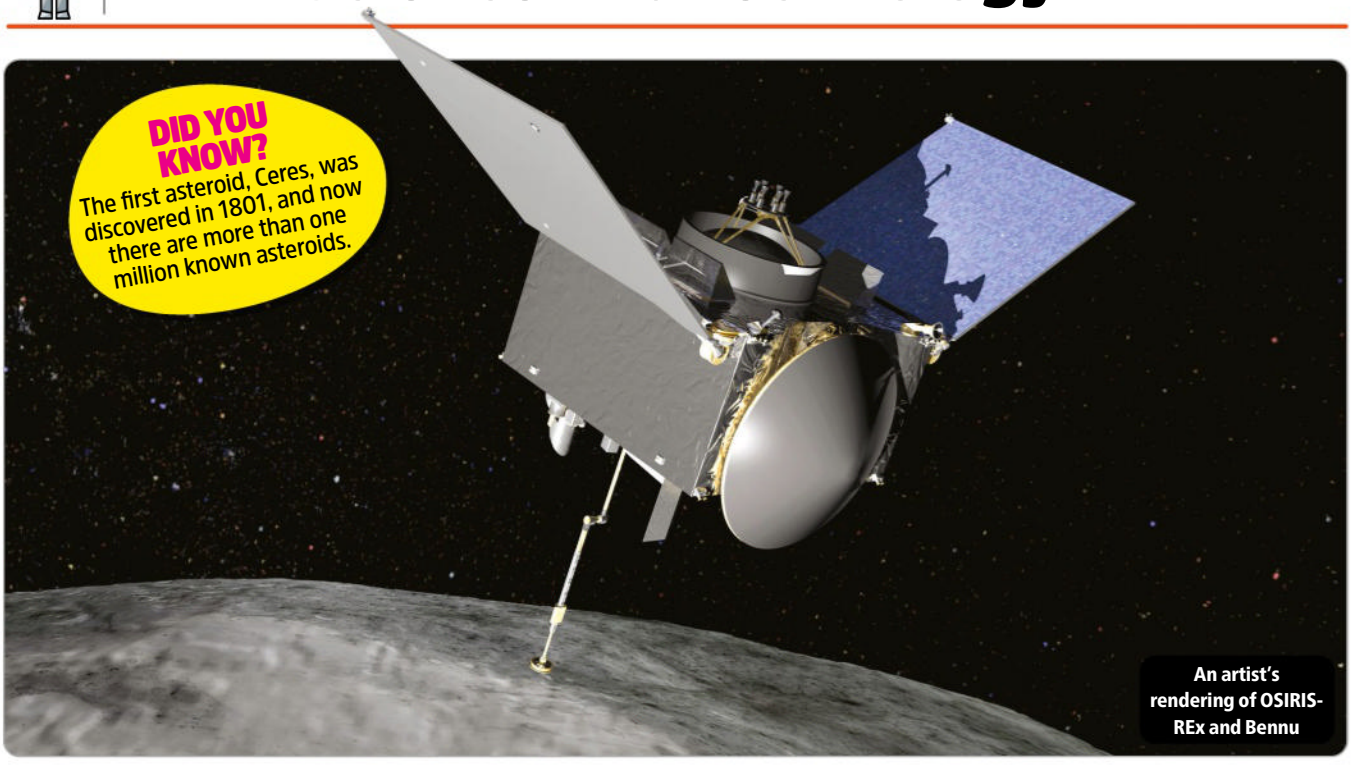
Ten teams will compete in this year's World Cup. India, as the host country, automatically qualified for the tournament. Seven other teams qualified based on their performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League 2020–23, and the final two teams got in through a World Cup qualifier. In the tournament, teams play in a round robin stage in which every team plays every other team once. In that round, a victory earns the winning team two points, while a no-result (when a match cannot be completed) means both sides get a point each. The top four teams advance to the semifinals, where they play for a spot in the finals.

Shakib Al Hasan

World Cup preview

This year's men's World Cup, held in India for the fourth time, starts on October 5 with a match

The World Cup trophy



An artist's rendering of OSIRIS-REx and Bennu

Asteroid samples returned to Earth

For the first time, US scientists have collected samples from an asteroid (a rocky object that orbits the Sun) and brought them back to Earth. The small amounts of rock, dirt, and dust were taken from an asteroid called Bennu and carried to Earth in a capsule about the size of a car tire. Scientists expect the materials will provide a deeper understanding of the formation of our Sun and its planets and how life first formed on Earth.

The mission to collect the materials, which are known as regolith, began in 2016 with the launch of a spacecraft called OSIRIS-REx. The spacecraft spent two years in space traveling to Bennu, which formed an estimated 4.5 billion years ago. It then orbited Bennu for another two years, mapping its surface before using a robotic arm shaped like a pogo stick to vacuum up regolith from its surface.

The OSIRIS-REx capsule

OSIRIS-REx carried the capsule back toward Earth at a speed of about 27,000 miles per hour, then released it about 63,000 miles from our planet. After passing through Earth's atmosphere (a blanket of gases that surrounds and protects the planet), the capsule opened its parachute at about 20,000 feet. Four hours later, after a journey of more than 4 billion miles, it touched down in the Utah desert. After determining that it was safe, mission crew approached the capsule and found it to be undamaged.

The capsule was hooked up to a cable and carried by helicopter to a secure facility. Scientists opened it, removed the canister inside, and began preparing it for travel to a special lab at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Texas.

Scientists won't know for sure how much material was retrieved until they open the capsule, but they estimate the quantity to be about 250 grams (8.8 ounces). NASA will keep 70% of the regolith, and the rest will go to more than 200 scientists at 35 different space agencies and scientific institutions, including facilities in Canada and Japan. Studies of the materials are expected to last for decades.

Dante Lauretta, the lead investigator on the OSIRIS-REx mission, said he felt "overwhelming relief, gratitude, pride, [and] awe" when the capsule landed. The materials it carried are "a treasure trove from the very beginning of our solar system," he said.

Honoring female astronomers

Alice Everett

Annie Maunder

Two asteroids have been named in honor of groundbreaking female astronomers (scientists who study space). In the 1880s, Alice Everett and Annie Maunder studied math at Girton College, part of the University of Cambridge in the UK. At the time, women couldn't receive degrees, but Everett and Maunder graduated and were among the first women to be paid for working in astronomy. They made major discoveries, but men got credit for them.

The International Astronomical Union and the British Astronomical Association (BAA) said the honor recognizes the contributions Everett and Maunder made to science. "These were extraordinary women who did extraordinary things," said Mike Frost, a BAA official. "They deserve their place up in the sky."

Revealing the many secrets of snail mucus

In humans, mucus serves many purposes. It blocks germs from our noses, lets our eyelids open and close smoothly, and helps with gut health. The substance helps other species, too. In a new study, scientists found that common garden snails release three kinds of mucus, each with a different purpose. The research also found that the mucus contains previously unknown proteins (basic structures found in all living things).

MUCUS MACHINE
The human body produces a liter of mucus a day in the eyes, nose, mouth, lungs, and stomach.

The study, which was conducted by a team at the City University of New York, focused on the Cornu aspersum snail. This species is eaten as escargot. Its mucus is a common ingredient in beauty products and skin treatments and can help wound healing.

The team found that one type of mucus keeps the snail's skin healthy and hydrated. Another works as a kind of glue so the snail can stick to surfaces, and the third makes surfaces smooth and easy for the snail to move across.

The study also found that the snail's mucus consists of 71 proteins, about a third of which are new to science. Learning more about the mucus could lead to new uses for it, such as a surgical glue.

"Everyone is fascinated and disgusted by mucus," said Adam Braunschweig, the study's lead investigator. "However, most people don't realize just how complex and elegant these secretions are."

Snail mucus is used in many common beauty and skin products.

Doctors are finding ways to ease pain in babies.

Lullaby relieves pain in newborns

A study found that music reduces discomfort in babies undergoing medical procedures. For many years, experts thought newborns didn't feel pain. Scientists now know that they do and want to prevent it.

Doctors at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in New York studied 100 infants. Each baby had their heel pricked to retrieve a blood sample, which is a standard procedure for newborn babies. All the babies were given a sugar solution to drink before the heel prick. Half of them heard a classical music lullaby, which was played before, during, and after the heel prick. Doctors assessed all the babies' pain levels by their facial expressions, crying, and breathing. The group that heard the lullabies had less pain.

The team said music offers a simple, inexpensive way to relieve pain for babies. They want to see if a parent's voice or touch would have the same pain-reducing effect.

AMAZING INVENTION

3D printing with coffee grounds

Used coffee grounds usually end up in the trash, but researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder turned them into a 3D printing material instead. They created a paste using coffee grounds and other ingredients. The paste was fed into a 3D printer to make items including small pots, jewelry, and coffee cups.

Once the objects were dry, they were as strong as concrete. If they're no longer needed, they can be turned back into a paste and used to print a new object or added to soil, where they break down naturally.

ON RIGHT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); MICHAEL RIVERA; ON LEFT PAGE: NASA; THE MISTRESS AND FELLOWS, GIRTON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; NASA/KEEGAN BARBER

Photos of the week

Fields of gold
This image of workers in China drying bamboo products was taken from above.

"Lady Justice"
A sculpture greets visitors at a courthouse in Germany.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Up, up, and away
Bright umbrellas are part of an art exhibit in Canada.

Under the sea
Jellyfish swim in a swarm off the coast of Norway.

Cultural tradition
A child participates in a Caribbean carnival in the UK.

Dog day
A lawmaker and her pup take part in a competition in the UK.

FUN FACT
The most popular MLB player jersey sold this year was for Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels.

Kyle Bradish of the Baltimore Orioles on October 1

A new baseball record

On September 27, Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. set a new MLB record. That day, the slugger stole his 69th and 70th bases of the season and became the first player in the league's history to rack up 40 home runs and 70 stolen bases in a single season.

MLB season ends and playoffs begin

The last regular season Major League Baseball (MLB) games were played on October 1. Although some teams had made the playoffs before the final weekend of games, five of the 12 spots were still open. On September 30the Houston Astros, who are the defending World Series champions, Arizona Diamondbacks, Miami Marlins, Texas Rangers, and Toronto Blue Jays filled those remaining spots.

Luis Arraez

For the MLB postseason, the winners of the East, Central, and West divisions of the National League (NL) and American League (AL) automatically make the playoffs. The team with the most wins overall this year was the Atlanta Braves, who finished with a 104–58 record and won the NL East for the sixth year in a row. The top AL team was the Baltimore Orioles of the AL East, who were 101–61. They had not won their division since 2014 or won 100 games or more since 1980.

The other division winners were the Los Angeles Dodgers of the NL West, the Milwaukee Brewers of the NL Central, the Minnesota Twins of the AL Central, and the Astros, who clinched the AL West division title on the last day of the season. The Astros and the Rangers both finished with 90–72 records, but the Astros beat the Rangers in more of the games they played against each other this season, which broke the tie.

In each league, the three teams with the next highest win totals qualify as wild cards, and that will include the Rangers, the Tampa Bay Rays in the AL, and the Philadelphia Phillies in the NL. All the teams are seeded (ranked) based on their records, and the top two in each league do not compete until the Division Series, which starts on October 7. The rest compete in the Wild Card games, which began on October 3.

One of the standout players during the regular season was Luis Arraez of the Marlins, who won the NL batting title. He had a .354 average, which was also the best in the MLB. The Rays' Yandy Diaz, who had a .330 batting average, won the AL title. Matt Olson of the Braves led the MLB and the NL with 54 home runs, while Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels topped the AL with 44.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

GOLF

On October 1, Team Europe defeated Team USA at the Ryder Cup in Rome, Italy. The event features top men's golfers and is held every two years. It is split into 28 matches, and the team that earns the most points from those matches wins. Team Europe, which had lost the event when it was played in the US in 2021, beat the Americans by five points. It was Team Europe's seventh straight Ryder Cup win in Europe.

Team Europe

SOCCER

In the National Women's Soccer League on September 30, the San Diego Wave FC beat the Portland Thorns, 2–0. The Wave are in first place and clinched the first playoff spot.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

San Francisco 49ers running back Christian McAffrey scored four touchdowns in a 35–16 win over the Arizona Cardinals on October 1. It was his 13th straight game with at least one touchdown, a franchise record.

A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces, left, and Natasha Wilson of the Dallas Wings on September 29

COMING SOON
The WNBA is expected to announce the addition of a team that will play in San Francisco, California.

Matchup is set for WNBA finals

The WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) playoff semifinals have ended, and the two best teams in the league, the Las Vegas Aces and the New York Liberty, are headed to the 2023 championship series. It will be one of the most highly anticipated WNBA Finals ever.

The Aces, who are the WNBA's defending champions, were the top team during the regular season. They had a 34–6 record and have been undefeated in the playoffs. On September 29, the team completed a three-game sweep of the Dallas Wings in the semifinals. Aces star A'ja Wilson has been having an outstanding postseason and scored 30 or more points in three out of five playoff games so far.

The Liberty, who added several top players before the season started, had a regular season record of 32–8. One of their new additions was Breanna Stewart, who was named the WNBA's Most Valuable Player (MVP) on September 26. Despite their regular season dominance and Stewart's great postseason playing, the Liberty did not coast through their semifinal series against the Connecticut Sun. In Game 1, the team lost big on their home court, 78–63. Going into Game 4 on October 1, the Liberty were up 2–1 in the series, but clinching their spot in the Finals required pulling out an 87–84 victory. The Liberty will be making their first WNBA Finals appearance since 2002.

Las Vegas will host Game 1 of the finals on October 8. They met the Liberty four times during the regular season, and each team won the two games that were played on their home courts.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Reak Kueth**

Team: **Minneapolis United 12u Girls Copa (soccer)**

"Coach Reak has helped us from our little kid years in 7v7 to us now playing 11v11. He doesn't smile a lot, but he pushes us to play really well and work hard so we will get better. He's made us the best we can be. One time he wore a suit to a game because he wanted to distract us from a girl on the other team that we all knew. His plan worked because we won, 1–0. Fun fact: Coach Reak likes ribs." Lucy, 12, Minnesota

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Olivia Hasler

AGE: 22 SPORT: SOCCER
TEAM: TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Taking the field I started playing soccer when I was about 3 or 4 years old. I was a little bit scared of the ball, but as I grew up, I loved the team aspect of it. Then it became an outlet for me and a way to take my mind off things. It's a place to do something that I love without having to think about everything else going on.

Tough change Before coming to college, I played pretty much the whole game for any team I was on. When I got here, I played a lot less than I was used to and it was difficult for me. I'm proud that I kept working hard and supporting my teammates until I was able to earn myself a spot.

Pre-match routine I'm not very superstitious, but I always wear my hair the same way for every game. As a team, we play certain music before a game and there are dances we do.

Mental trick When I have a big match, I try not to think too much about it beforehand. It makes me nervous and distracts me from what I need to do.

Top moment I've been lucky to be on very good teams that have won many big tournaments. A fun personal highlight came in my freshman year, when we were playing Kansas State. I scored a goal that sent us into overtime, and it made it on ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10. That was pretty cool.

Her advice Be a hard worker so you are never, ever questioned about anything that you're doing. If you give 100% all the time, you can achieve what you want and be successful at whatever sport you're pursuing.

GETTY IMAGES (2); TCU; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

WOW! A Taylor Swift concert in July shook the ground so hard it registered like a small earthquake.

Taylor Swift on the Eras Tour

Taylor Swift releases concert film

The pop star is bringing her sold-out, record-breaking Eras Tour to movie theaters around the world.

Fans of the singer Taylor Swift who didn't get to see her in concert this year—and those who want to see her show again—will now have the chance. *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, a film of her concert performances, is coming to movie theaters. It opens on October 13 and will play through November 5.

Swift has previously released other concert films, but not in theaters. She made a deal to have this one shown exclusively at the AMC chain in the US. The film was announced on August 31, and within 24 hours, $26 million worth of tickets were sold, breaking a record for AMC's highest single-day advance ticket sales. In addition to playing in the US, the film will run in more than 100 countries worldwide.

The new album

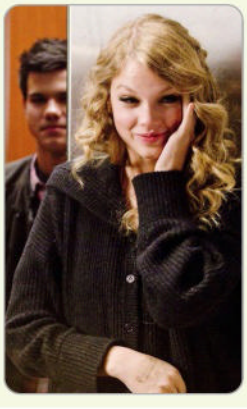
The Eras Tour show pays tribute to the 10 studio albums the singer has released since 2006. It has broken several records, including one for selling 2 million tickets in one day. It is expected to become the highest-grossing concert tour of all time.

At each show, Swift plays 44 songs, including some surprises. She has been joined by special guests such as rapper Ice Spice, folk rock star Marcus Mumford, and singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers. Swift has called the tour "the most meaningful, electric experience of my life so far." Fans attended her shows wearing outfits related to her different albums, and she encouraged moviegoers to do the same and to dance and sing in the theater. Although her concerts ran for more than 3 hours, the film running time is 2 hours and 40 minutes.

On October 27, Swift will release *1989 (Taylor's Version)*, a new version of her 2014 album, *1989*. She will perform in South America in November and spend most of 2024 on tour abroad. The Eras Tour will end with stops in North America next fall.

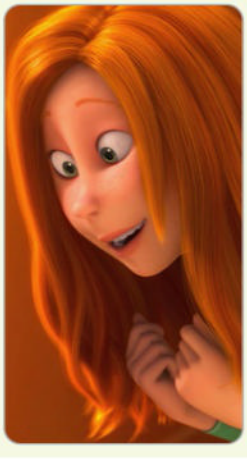
3 more Taylor Swift films

Valentine's Day



The singer's first feature film role was in this 2010 romantic comedy (rated PG-13). It tells stories about interconnected people who are celebrating the title's holiday.

The Lorax

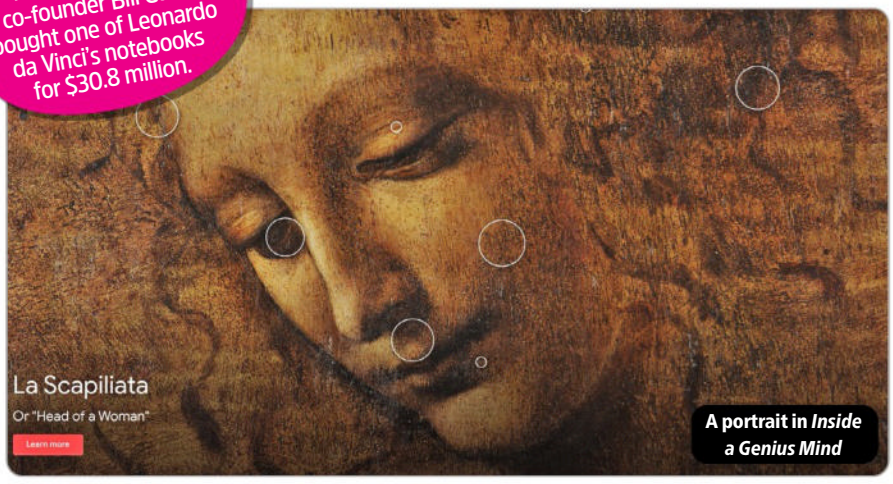


Taylor Swift became a voice actor for this 2012 animated film, which was an adaptation of the Dr. Seuss book of the same name. She played an optimistic teen named Audrey, one of the main characters.

Cats

The 2019 live-action musical was based on playwright Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit show. Swift portrayed the cat Bombalurina. *Cats* featured many big stars but was not a success.

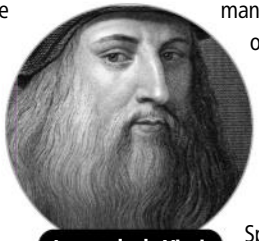
FUN FACT
In 1994, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates bought one of Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks for $30.8 million.



A portrait in *Inside a Genius Mind*

Online hub for Leonardo da Vinci

Recently, Google Arts & Culture launched *Inside a Genius Mind*, a website about Leonardo da Vinci, a brilliant and influential artist, scientist, and engineer from the Italian Renaissance (a time of great learning in Europe from the 1300s to 1600s). It contains more than 1,300 items from his personal notebooks, which can be seen online for the first time. Google collaborated with 28 international institutions to create the site, which was curated (put together) by Martin Kemp, a British art historian and da Vinci scholar. Artificial intelligence also helped make connections between da Vinci's works over the years.


Leonardo da Vinci

Da Vinci lived from 1452 to 1519, and one of his most famous paintings is the *Mona Lisa*. When he was about 15 years old, he began to study painting and sculpture. He later learned architecture and taught himself math. His drawings included inventions for flying machines, a military tank, and scuba diving equipment. *Inside a Genius Mind* allows visitors to see 3D models of some of his inventions.

Da Vinci's notebooks can be explored in many ways on the site. Visitors can click on an animation filled with different sketches or find items using tags such as "monsters" or "geometry." They can also be looked at through curated stories, which are divided into themes such as Secrets of Flight, Spirals, and Destruction.

Inside a Genius Mind also has areas where visitors can look at microscopic views of paintings, do a crossword puzzle, create their own da Vinci art, and find out how to turn themselves into the *Mona Lisa*. To explore the site, visit artsandculture.google.com/project/leonardo.

READER RECOMMENDS

DC League of Super-Pets *PG (Max, Prime Video, Hulu, or rent on demand)*

"Krypto is a superdog who fights crime with Superman. When Superman is kidnapped by a guinea pig who got powers from orange kryptonite, Krypto can't save him because he lost his powers from eating green kryptonite. Luckily, a group of shelter animals also got powers from the orange kryptonite and they have become a strong dog, a size-changing pig, an electricity-generating squirrel, and a fast turtle. Krypto works with them to save the day. This movie is funny and has great voice acting." Michael, 10, New Jersey

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

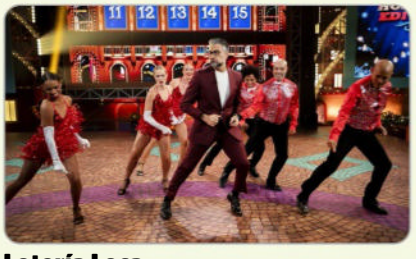
THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Launchpad
(Disney+)

This series showcases short films from writers and directors representing different cultural backgrounds. Topics covered in the new second set of fictional stories include sisters bonding over science, a boy training to be a martial arts champion, and a family trying to stop a ghost.

A Really Haunted Loud House
(Paramount+)

The Nickelodeon series *The Loud House* gets in the Halloween spirit with this new live-action movie. When Lincoln Loud and his best friend Clyde go to a Halloween party thrown by a cool kid, Lincoln leaves it up to his sisters to wow the neighborhood with their annual Spooktacular.



Lotería Loca
(CBS)

Mexican actor-singer Jaime Camil (the voice of Papá in *Coco*) hosts this new game show based on a traditional Mexican card game similar to Bingo. Two players face off in each episode with hopes of taking home a cash prize. To win more money, they can participate in fun challenges.

GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE (2); WARNER BROS. PICTURES; DISNEY; NICKELODEON; FERNANDO MARRERO/CBS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; REPUBLIC RECORDS; ALAMY (3)

Detective Pikachu Returns

FUN FACT
In 2016, the most commonly searched term on Google was "Pokémon GO," the title of a popular game.

Solve a mystery as Pikachu

Detective Pikachu Returns is a new Pokémon adventure game. It is out now exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

The new game is a sequel to the video game Detective Pikachu, which first came out in 2016. It inspired a hit 2019 movie of the same name. The story in the new game is similar to the plot of the movie, but it is not necessary to be familiar with the movie or the first game to enjoy Detective Pikachu Returns. In fact, you don't even need to know much about Pokémon at all because this game is different from almost every other game in the long-running franchise.

While the main Pokémon series challenges gamers to collect, evolve, and battle the colorful monsters in a turn-based role-playing style, the new game is about solving a mystery. The character Detective Pikachu is a wise-cracking, street-smart officer who patrols Ryme City, where humans and Pokémon live. For the past two years, he has been searching for his last partner, Harry Goodman. In the game, Pikachu and Harry's son, Tim, pair up to find him. Gamers control the duo as they hunt down clues and solve monster-centric mysteries across the city. There are side quests, too, which generally involve trying to help Pokémon who are in trouble.

Some Pokémon are helpful when it comes to solving mysteries. For example, Growlithe, a puppy, has a great sense of smell and can sniff out clues. But in the end, it's up to Tim and Detective Pikachu to crack the case of where Harry went. You'll also end up discovering how Pikachu got his personality.

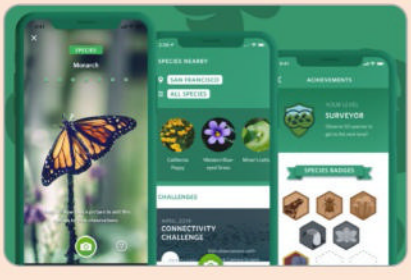
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK? THE OFFICIAL PODCAST

Audible

This spooky new six-episode series is inspired by Nickelodeon's popular 1990s show *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* Each episode will follow a group of kids as they come face-to-face with monsters, haunted houses, and evil toys.

APP OF THE WEEK



SEEK

Apple App Store, Google Play

When you point your phone or tablet camera at plants and animals, this app can help identify what you see. You'll be able to earn in-app badges for spotting different types of insects, flowers, fungi, and other living organisms and also learn about them in the process.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

THE GENIUS BEHIND KARAOKE

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Karaoke

People around the world love karaoke machines, which play the background music of songs so anyone can sing along to them. This video tells the story of how a Japanese man named Daisuke Inoue created the first karaoke machine in 1971 and what inspired him.

THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL, INC. (2); NICKELODEON PODCASTS; INATURALIST; GREAT BIG STORY VIA YOUTUBE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

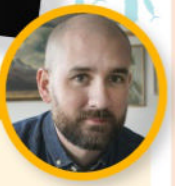
The Wild Robot Protects

By Peter Brown

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Roz, a robot, is enjoying life on a beautiful island at the start of the third book in this popular series. Brightbill, the goose she raised, returns from migration and introduces Roz to his mate. The geese are even going to be parents soon! But danger is on the horizon: Sea creatures warn that a "poison tide" may soon reach the island and harm the wildlife and plants. Roz rallies the island's animals to prepare. Once the pollution reaches the island, she instructs beavers to build dams so their fresh drinking water doesn't get contaminated with ocean water. After discovering that the contamination won't harm her robot body, Roz sets out on a months-long, harrowing underwater journey to find a wise shark who might know what's causing the pollution and how it can be stopped. An environmental and survival story rolled into one, this novel is brimming with suspense. The fast-paced story may help you visualize how life on land and in water are connected. You don't have to read the other books in the series to feel immersed in this sequel.

ASK THE AUTHOR



Peter Brown

We spoke to the author of *The Wild Robot Protects*.

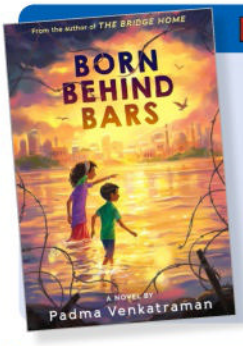
What makes Roz wild?
Roz the Robot is wild in the sense that she lives in the wilderness. She learns to survive by studying the wild animals. She learns how to think and speak like a wild animal.

What makes you appreciate the ocean?
At a time when we know so much about our planet, I love that the ocean is still full of mystery. Its immense size reminds me that I'm just one small part of a big world.

Did you always enjoy drawing?
Yes, ever since I could pick up a crayon. Drawing is magic.

What message does this book convey?
I hope it gives readers a greater appreciation for how we are all connected. What happens on the other side of the planet can have a direct impact on us.

Pumpkin or apple pie?
Warm apple crumb pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!



READER RECOMMENDS

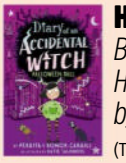
Born Behind Bars *By Padma Venkatraman*

"*Born Behind Bars* is a book about a boy named Kabir who was born in jail because of a crime his mother didn't commit. When he's too old to stay in prison, the guards release him and he sets off into the streets of Chennai by himself. One day he stumbles upon a girl named Rani. Together they find a way to find Kabir's family and get his mother out of jail." Faith, 12, Florida

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 not-so-scary books for Halloween

These seasonal picks are fun to read and aren't meant to be frightening.

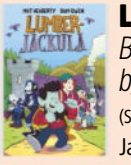


Halloween Ball

By Perdita Cargill and Honor Cargill, illustrated by Katie Saunders

(Tiger Tales)

In this new Diary of an Accidental Witch series, Bea is on the planning committee for her school's Halloween Ball. She's excited and a little scared too. Bea wants to come up with good ideas, but she's nervous her dad will find out about her magic powers. *Ages 9 and under*



Lumber-Jackula

By Mat Heagerty, illustrated by Sam Owen

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Jack's mom is a lumberjack, and his dad is a vampire. But Jack doesn't want to follow in their footsteps. He loves to dance more than anything and will have to muster up a lot of courage to follow his dreams. The art in this graphic novel has many fun details. *Ages 8–12*

The Pug Who Wanted to Be a Pumpkin

By Bella Swift

(Aladdin)

Peggy, a pug, is worried that going trick-or-treating with Chloe, the little girl in her family, will be scary. After all, Peggy is afraid of monsters, ghosts, and most certainly the dark. Will she be brave enough to put on her pumpkin costume and be by Chloe's side on Halloween? *Ages 7–10*

The Pumpkin War

By Cathleen Young

(Wendy Lamb Books)

In Madeline Island, Wisconsin, it's a tradition to grow pumpkins that can be hollowed out and used as a type of paddleboat. During last year's boat race, Sam's pumpkin bumped into Billie's pumpkin and broke it. Billie hasn't forgiven Sam for what happened. Will they become friends again before this year's race? *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF PETER BROWN; GETTY IMAGES

DID YOU KNOW?
In England during the 12th and 13th centuries, autumn was known as "haerfest," or harvest.

Plan a day of leaf peeping

Explore the stunning colors of fall foliage with this activity.

Autumn can be a great season to experience the outdoors with your friends and family. One popular activity is leaf peeping—spending time outdoors admiring the changing colors of the leaves. Here's some advice for getting started.

Understand the science

Trees with leaves that change colors in the fall are deciduous species, like oaks, maples, and birches. These types of trees have green leaves most of the year due to the chlorophyll they use to absorb energy from the Sun. As the days get colder and shorter in the fall, the leaves get less sunlight, which causes the green to fade and reveal other colors, like red, orange, and gold. After the leaves change color, they eventually fall to the ground. In the spring, the tree grows new leaves.

See how many colors you can spot.

Pick a destination

Northern regions like New England and the upper Midwest are known for having incredible autumn leaves, but you can experience fall foliage in almost every state in the US. Depending on where you live, you might want to plan to head out into the countryside or mountains to see the best leaves your area has to offer. Talk to your family about planning a day out or a weekend trip. With an adult's help, map out your driving route. Identify scenic overlooks or parks where you can get out of the car and take a hike or set up a picnic to admire the changing leaves up close.

Time your trip

Once you have your destination set, start planning when to go. "Peak" foliage is considered the time when fall leaves will be most colorful and plentiful on trees. You can visit tinyurl.com/TWJUS-leaves to see when the leaves are expected to change color at your planned destination. You'll notice that leaves first start to change in more northern areas, then later in more southern areas. Since the weather can dictate when peak foliage occurs, local news or tourism sites may also report on how quickly the leaves are changing. Even if you go before or after "peak" season, you can still expect to spot beautiful colors.

Document your observations

When you head out to look at the fall landscape, keep a visual record of what you see. You could print out a map and use colored pencils to draw in the different leaves you spotted. Or use a camera to take photos of some of your favorite sights. You can get creative, such as by lying on the ground and capturing the colorful leaves above you, taking a close-up of an especially beautiful leaf, or capturing a photo of one colorful tree. Try doing this every year!

4 fun leaf crafts to try this fall

Here are some creative ideas for what you can make with colorful autumn leaves.

Crown yourself

Cut a one-inch strip of cardboard a little larger than the circumference of your head. Staple or glue it together so you have a circle. Glue leaves around the outside.

Spray-paint them

Make a spray-paint leaf pattern. Start by adding a few drops of paint to a spray bottle, then fill the bottle with water. Lay a big piece of paper on the ground outdoors and arrange leaves on top. Spray paint on and around the leaves. Let dry, then remove the leaves to reveal your design.

Create prints

Use your leaves like a stamp: Paint one side with a few colors, then push the painted side down on paper and remove it. Use a few different leaves to make prints all over your paper.

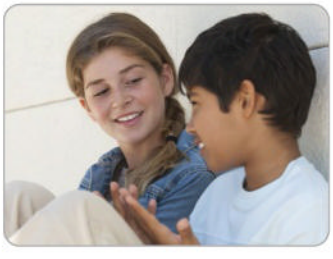
Make people

With a paint pen, puffy paint, or permanent marker, gently draw eyes and smiles on a few leaves. Once the "faces" are dry, flip the leaves over and carefully tape down two pieces of pipe cleaner for "arms" and two for "legs."

BE A BETTER LISTENER

Sometimes it can be difficult to listen to what others are saying. However, being a good listener is an important quality in friendships, said Dr. Christopher Willard, a psychologist (person who studies mental health) at Harvard Medical School. Here's how to tune in to others.

1. **Be present.** One of the easiest ways to hear what someone is saying is to stop what you're doing and listen to the other person. That includes putting down your phone, tablet, or any other item you're holding.
2. **Ask questions.** When someone is done talking, ask a follow-up question. Knowing you will be asking a question will help you pay attention while the person is talking. The person will also notice that you care about what they're saying.
3. **Use body language.** Show the other person you're paying attention by nodding in agreement and maintaining eye contact. These habits show people that you are open to hearing what they're saying.



FUN FACT
There are more than 150 species of coconut that can be found in over 80 countries.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Cook up coconut curry noodles

Ingredients

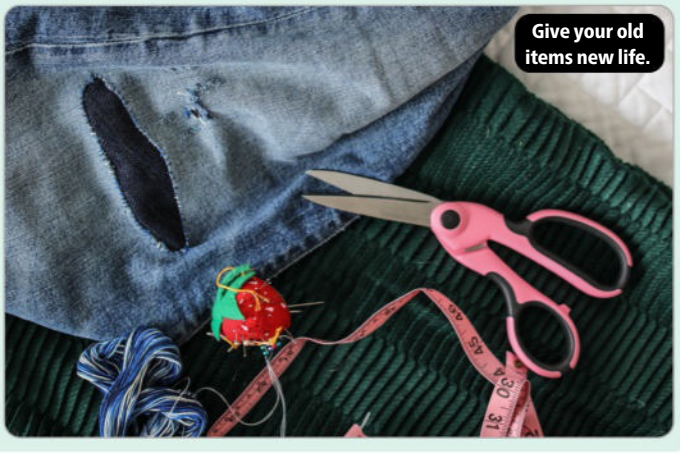
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 pound package extra firm tofu, diced
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- ½ cup frozen edamame, shelled
- 13.6-ounce can unsweetened coconut milk
- 1½ tablespoon red curry paste (such as Thai Kitchen brand)
- 8-ounce can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- One package (12 to 14 ounces) heat and serve Thai-style noodles (such as Ka-Me brand)
- Juice of 1 lime, plus wedges for serving
- Thinly sliced green onion (optional)

Instructions

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium-high. Add the tofu and season generously with salt and pepper. Cook, turning the tofu cubes occasionally, until they are lightly golden, about 8 minutes.
2. Stir in the red bell pepper and edamame and cook for 2 minutes. Add the coconut milk, 1 cup water, and the curry paste and mix well. Bring mixture to a gentle simmer, then reduce heat to medium.
3. Add in the water chestnuts and noodles and cook 5 minutes more. Remove from heat and stir in the lime juice. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve bowls of curry noodles topped with green onion, if desired. Makes 4 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK
REPAIR INSTEAD OF REPLACE ITEMS

When one of your possessions gets worn down or breaks, your first instinct might be to throw it away and buy a replacement. A more eco-friendly option is to repair the item if you can. Repairing—instead of replacing—an item keeps it out of the landfill and also saves the resources that would be used to produce a new one. There are many ways to make repairs. For example, you could add patches or embroidery over holes or stains in clothing or cut worn jeans into shorts. You might be able to save a broken plastic toy with clear craft glue. Even some electronics, like a speaker, can be fixed. Check tutorials on YouTube and ask for an adult's help.



ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Word search

Can you find all these words associated with time in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

AGES
CENTURY
CHIME
CLOCK
DATE
DECADE
EON
EPOCH
HOUR
LEAP YEAR
METRONOME
MIDNIGHT
MILLENNIUM
MINUTE
MONTH
NOON
PAST
SECOND
SPRING FORWARD
SUNDIAL
TICKTOCK
TIME ZONE
TODAY
TOMORROW
WEEK
YESTERDAY

T	H	C	E	N	T	U	R	Y	E	L	M	E
P	A	S	T	T	O	D	A	C	S	A	M	T
	A	M	U	I	N	N	E	L	L	I	M	
	C	O	N	M	C	O	Y	O	H	D	U	
		N	I	E	K	C	P	C	N	N		
		T	M	Z	R	E	A	K	A	U		
		H	T	O	E	S	E	G	A	S		
			C	N	S	L	L	W	T			
				E	P	O	C	H				
					R	O	G					
					I	I	C					
				K	N	S	A	W				
			R	D	G	E	K	O	B			
		A	I	N	F	C	S	R	E	D		
		M	O	N	O	T	T	R	H	D		
		M	E	T	R	O	N	O	M	E		
	E	E	K	M	W	O	N	M	D	C	V	
	E	C	T	M	A	R	U	O	H	A	E	
N	I	T	S	A	R	O	F	T	A	D	Y	T
T	O	M	Y	A	D	R	E	T	S	E	Y	S

FOUR IN A ROW

Place four of the letters below to complete the first pair of words, in the same order in both words. Use the remaining four letters to complete the second pair of words, in the same order in both words.

A C E F G H L R

M I S _ _ I _ _

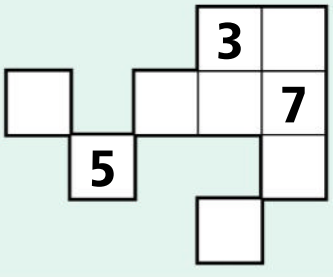
_ _ E _ R _ U L

R E _ U _ _ _

_ _ _ C I E _

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



FILL IN THE BLANKS

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with words that are anagrams of each other, like BOWL and BLOW. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. The tourist said he'd feel ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ staying outside the cavern because two of his biggest ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ are spiders and bats.
2. To help the local board of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ raise money for school supplies, the PTA ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ off some theater tickets to the highest bidder.
3. When Mom bought the set of dinner ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ decorated with flower ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ in many light, pretty ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ colors, she asked the cashier to ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ the receipt to the bag.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of cricket players appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Fill in the blanks hint: In sentence 3, the first three words begin with P.

Chunk hogs the spotlight.

Chunky groundhogs become stars

An adorable groundhog family in Delaware went viral over vegetables. Jeff Permar set up a camera to find out who was damaging his garden and saw a groundhog "staring into the camera like, 'Yeah, I'm eating your vegetables. What are you going to do about it?'" Permar said. "He instantly won my heart." Permar now shares his garden with Chunk, as Permar calls him, and his growing family of pups, who have gained a following of more than 700,000 people on social media. He says helping the groundhogs fill their bellies is "rewarding."

His hair is the mane attraction.

Setting a record for long locks

Sidakdeep Singh Chahal has gone his entire life without a haircut. The Indian 15-year-old is a follower of the Sikh religion, which says that hair is a gift from God and should not be cut off. Now he has locked down the Guinness World Records title for the longest hair on a male teenager, at 4 feet 9.5 inches. Twice a week, Chahal spends at least an hour washing, drying, and brushing his hair before tying it in a bun. "I was over the moon," he said about achieving the record. "I plan to keep my hair uncut until the day I die."

There's music in everything.

Surprising ways to make music

Boris Sichon has spent his career crafting musical instruments out of unlikely materials. He has made a flute out of a carrot and created a kind of trumpet from a traffic cone (both shown above). He also travels the world collecting rare instruments and unusual objects he can turn into homemade treasures. Today, he owns more than 400 instruments, including Irish bones, an Indian tabla, and a Russian xylophone. "I love to approach one instrument using a technique from another and see what happens," he said. "Every practice becomes a passion."

Did these birds make a magenta mistake?

A mysterious case of pink pigeons

In the town of Bury, England, residents are tickled pink by a colorful group of pigeons. After the town's popular annual food and drink festival, the peckish birds were seen raiding a dumpster that contained leftover cotton candy, red beets, and strawberry milkshakes. Soon all the pigeons turned various shades of pink, prompting locals to flock to the town center to take photos of the brightly feathered birds. Is this story real, or is it a flight of falsehood?*

*Fake! There is no pink flock—just a single pink pigeon that was recently spotted in Bury. The reason for its color is a mystery; some suspect it was dyed. "Everyone's wondering why it's pink," said one resident, "but it adds a bit of color to the place."

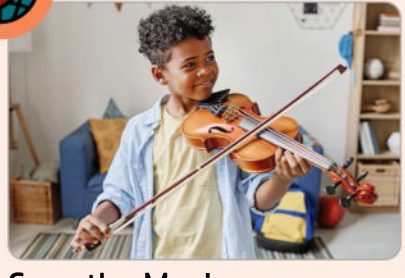
JEFF PERMAR; CATERS (3); GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Editor's note

I didn't know much about the sport of cricket before I read our special report in this week's issue about the upcoming World Cup tournament (p12). Now I feel better informed and ready for the action. We hope the same thing happens for you when you read *The Week Junior*. We pack each issue with articles to help you feel more knowledgeable about what's happening in the world, whether that's the budget showdown in the US Congress (p3), Frank Rubio's record-breaking achievement in space (p5), the dog that helped save sea turtles (p11), or Taylor Swift's new concert movie (p20). We also hope the stories you read will help you participate in conversations about current events and develop your own point of view. What's your favorite article in this week's issue? I'd love to know! Write to me at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Save the Music

This organization's goal is to provide children with a music education. It helps public schools set up music programs by providing instruments, equipment, and guidance. It also advocates for starting music education in schools where it doesn't exist and helps teachers with resources. Since its founding in 1997, it has supported more than 2,000 schools in 42 states. Find out more at savethemusic.org.

A bake sale for Maui

Sanjana (far left) with Aanya and Avani, 13, Illinois

"When I heard about the Maui wildfires, I knew I wanted to help the people of Hawaii. My best friends, Avani and Aanya, and I came up with the idea of a bake sale. Both friends and strangers were quick to place orders. We spent three days making more than 60 muffins, hundreds of cookies, and 50 pieces of fudge. We then hand-delivered the packed boxes to everyone. We decided to donate the $439 we raised to the Maui Strong Fund. That amazing feeling when we donated the money to the right place made us realize that this is just the beginning. We plan to contribute to many more causes in the future!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

What do you call a flock of black birds that stick together?

Vel-crows

Apply to join Junior Council!

***The Week Junior* is conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be our fifth session of Junior Council, and council members will meet directly with *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. There will be about six virtual workshops held from January through May 2024. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine. To apply, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application. The deadline to enter is October 23.**

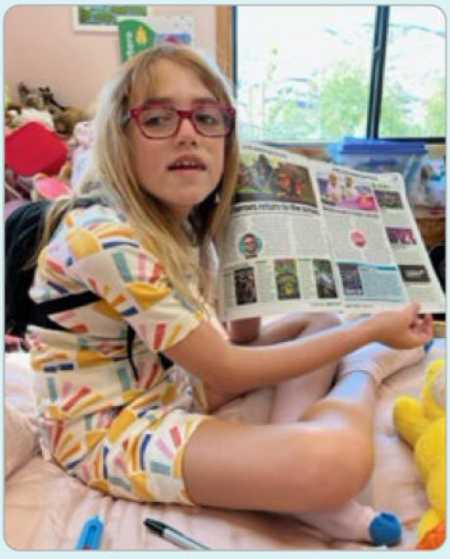
THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"We just had to make the seasoned after-school snack mix from the Back to School issue! It was delicious!" Jasper, 10, Massachusetts

"I read *The Week Junior* every week during my infusion. I love to save it when it comes in the mail and enjoy it while I have my medical treatment at home." Ella, 9, Washington



"I love to read *The Week Junior* to my cat, Mouse. He likes the stories about animals the best." Duncan, 12, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Michaela Shannon**

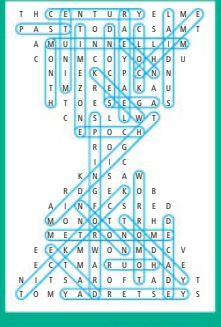
School: **Westchase Elementary School**

"Ms. Shannon is the most awesome teacher ever! She once solved two Rubik's Cubes and then juggled some glue sticks. She is so cool. She teaches us in both Spanish and English and comes up with really fun and interesting projects for us to do. I'm so lucky to have her as my teacher!"

Annika, 9, Florida

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

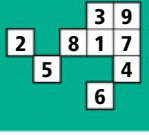
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Word search
Unused letters: The most accurate clocks are based on the movements of atoms.

Four in a row
mischief, cheerful
regular, glacier

Fill in the blanks
1. safer, fears
2. education, auctioned
3. plates, petals, pastel, staple



Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 b) Empire State Building **2** True **3** c) Maine **4** Brightbill **5** True **6** Bennu **7** c) Australia **8** a) Leonardo da Vinci **9** 371 **10** True **11** b) Venice Film Festival **12** Sea turtles **13** c) Portugal **14** False. It came out in 2016. **15** c) Groundhog

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

GETTY IMAGES: ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which famous US building was lit up to celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*?

a) Willis Tower b) Empire State Building

c) The White House

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Breanna Stewart won the 2023 WNBA Most Valuable Player award.

True ☐ False ☐

3 The number of Atlantic puffin chicks living off the coast of which state has increased for the second straight year?

a) Massachusetts b) Rhode Island c) Maine

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 In the book *The Wild Robot Protects*, what is the name of the goose raised by Roz?

5 True or false? *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* broke an advance ticket sales record at AMC movie theaters.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft gathered material from what asteroid?

7 Which country has won five ICC Men's Cricket World Cup titles?

a) India b) England c) Australia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

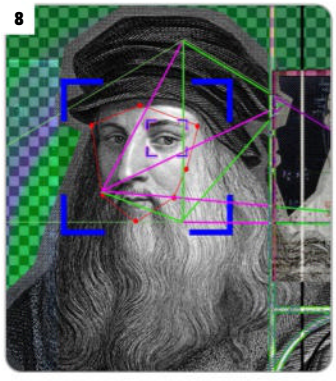
8 The new website *Inside a Genius Mind* is about which Italian Renaissance artist?

a) Leonardo da Vinci b) Michelangelo

c) Sandro Botticelli

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



9 How many consecutive days did US astronaut Frank Rubio spend in space, setting a new record?

10 True or false? Snail mucus is a common ingredient in beauty products and skin treatments.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Ava DuVernay recently became the first Black female director to have a movie compete at which film festival?

a) Sundance Film Festival

b) Venice Film Festival

c) Cannes Film Festival

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 A dog named Dory was able to sniff out more than 500 nests created by what kind of sea creature?

13 Young people from which nation filed a climate lawsuit against the governments of 32 countries?

a) France b) Spain c) Portugal

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 True or false? The first Detective Pikachu video game came out in 2019.

True ☐ False ☐

15 What type of animal was caught on camera eating vegetables from a Delaware family's garden?

a) Fox

b) Raccoon

c) Groundhog

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 6, January 13, July 7, and September 15. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

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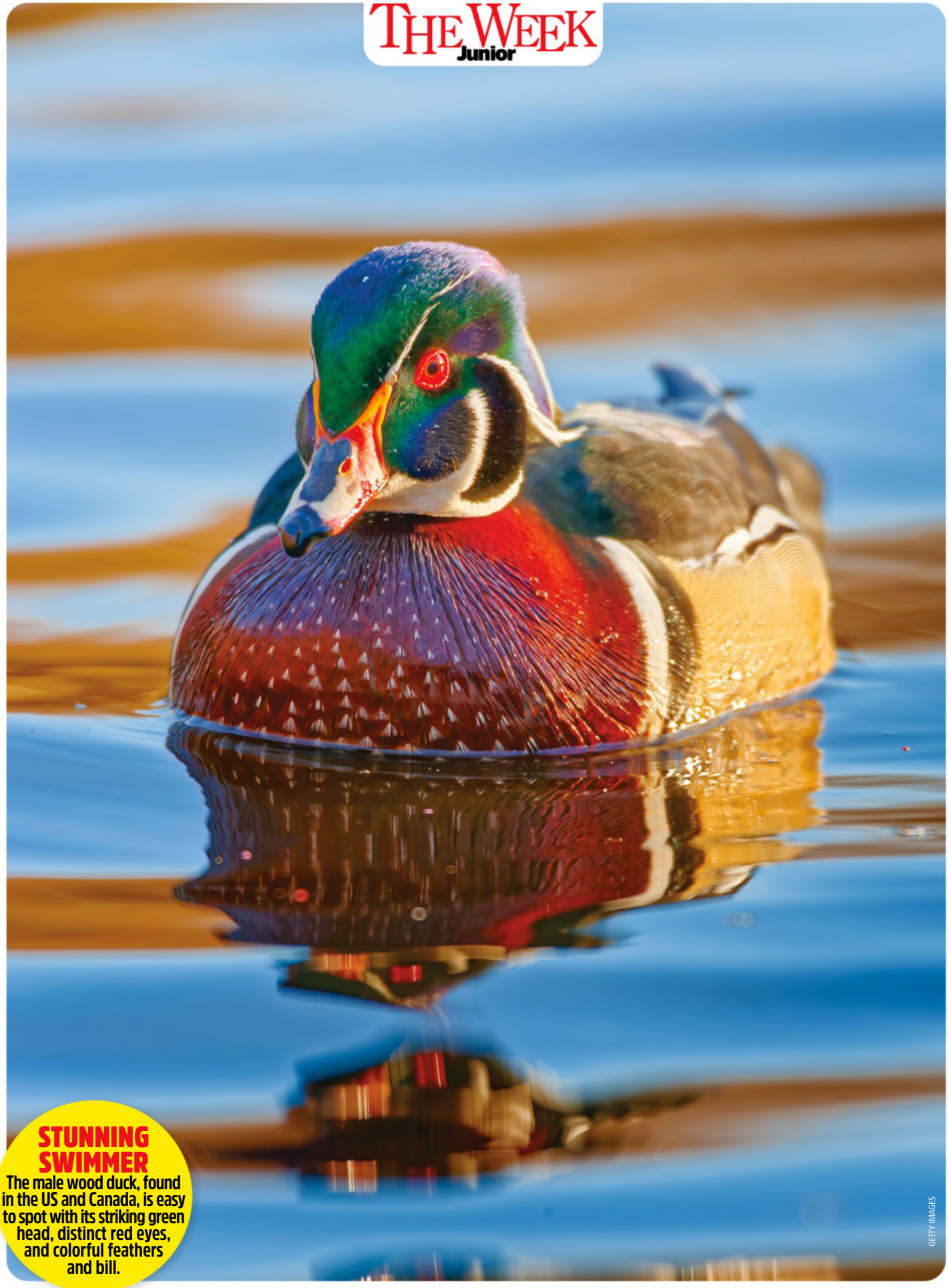

STUNNING SWIMMER

The male wood duck, found in the US and Canada, is easy to spot with its striking green head, distinct red eyes, and colorful feathers and bill.

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